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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/683,659	01/31/2002	Mark Philip D'Evelyn	RD-26623	1467
6147	7590	04/06/2004	EXAMINER	
GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY GLOBAL RESEARCH PATENT DOCKET RM. BLDG. K1-4A59 SCHENECTADY, NY 12301-0008			ANDERSON, MATTHEW A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1765	

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/683,659

Applicant(s)

D'EVELYN ET AL.

Examiner

Matthew A. Anderson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-96 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 81-96 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 11-20, 24-27, 30-32, 34-41, 44-49, 53-62, 66-69, 72-74 and 76-80 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8-10, 21-23, 28, 29, 33, 42, 43, 50-52, 63-65, 70, 71 and 75 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>filed March 17, 2002</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I (claims 1-80) in a paper filed 2/24/2004 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that no serious burden exists. This is not found persuasive because of the serious burden exists in the differing issues that arise during the prosecution of the distinct statutory classes of invention.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. Claims 81-94 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected Groups II-V, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the paper filed 2/24/2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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4. Claims 1-6, 18, 20, 25-26, 30-32, 34, 37-41, 44-48, 60, 62, 67-68, 72-74, 76 78-80, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Byrappa et al., Handbook of Hydrothermal Technology, Chapter 3: Apparatus, pp. 82-160, 2001.

Byrappa et al. discloses apparatus used at extreme pressures and temperatures. (see page 82). Page 83 discloses simple autoclaves from the 1970's. Selection of materials includes steel, iron, nickel, cobalt-based, super-alloys, titanium and titanium's alloys. These materials exhibit good corrosion resistance at the use pressure and temperature to the given solvent or hydrothermal fluid. Nickel is inherently cold weldable. Fig. 3.3 shows the general shape of the vessel to be a hollow cylinder with a closure at one end. Liners of the vessel include (see Table 3.5) Ti, iron alloys, Ag, Pt, Cu, Ni, Au. Pt is inherently inert. Fig. 3.19 shows a baffle in such an apparatus. Fig. 3.21 shows threads on the closure cap. On page 106, a silver or copper seal gasket is disclosed. The danger of hydrogen embrittlement is disclosed on page 89. Hydrogen embrittlement is caused by hydrogen forming metal hydrides and thus reducing the strength of the apparatus. Table 1 shows apparatus capable of operating with pressure of 6 bar up to 500 kbar. A plug is shown in Fig. 3.11. with a tube extending there-through.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claim 7, 19, 24, 27, 35-36, 49, 61, 66, 69, 77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Byrappa et al.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to optimize the thickness of the lining (i.e. coating) inside the vessel and the thickness of the wall itself because the coatings were for corrosion protection and Byrappa discloses a coating with some uncertain thickness. The optimization of the thickness of the parts would have been achieved with only routine experimentation.

In respect to claim 35, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to form a capsule with no hydrogen permeability

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because this would increase the safety by reducing the danger of hydrogen embrittlement.

In respect to claim 36, 77 it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention that the vessel be self pressurizing since the relation between P and T are commonly known.

In respect to claim 27, 69, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to form the baffle from known materials including nickel because Byrappa et al. discloses known used materials as including nickel and discloses baffles in such apparatus.

8. Claims 11-17, 53-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Byrappa et al. as applied to claims above, and further in view of Purdy US 5,902,396.

Byrappa et al. is described above.

Byrappa et al. does not disclose explicitly a free space between an inner capsule and an outer capsule.

Purdy discloses a method of growing a crystal with an inner vessel (see # 12 in Fig. 1) and an outer vessel (20). A free space is shown in Fig.1 between the vessels. In col. 5 line 10-15 a counter pressure fluid (water) is disclosed as provided in the space between the vessels to counter the possibility of explosion. The inner vessel can be a quartz (i.e. a silicon oxide based glass).

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to combine the disclosures of Byrappa et al. and Purdy because Byrappa et al. discloses that safety is extremely important for pressure vessels and Purdy discloses a way of increasing safety.

In respect to claims 11-14, 53-56, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to place the inner vessel (i.e. capsule) inside a outer vessel with a counter pressure fluid (i.e. a medium) (e.g. water) which provides an overpressure because such is suggested by Purdy et al.

In respect to claim 15-16, 57-58, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to use a quartz inner vessel because Purdy directly suggests such.

In respect to claim 17, 59 it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to optimize the thickness of the quartz inner vessel since Purdy suggests such a vessel which has a thickness.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 8-10, 21-23, 28-29, 33, 42-43, 50-52, 63-65, 70-71, 75 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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10. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

In respect to claims 8-10, 21-23, 50-52, 63-65 the prior art does not suggest a diffusion barrier disposed between the coating and the vessel. In regard to claims 28-29, 70-71 the coated baffle is not suggested by the prior art. In respect to claim 33, 75 the prior art does not disclose a surrounding outer seal. In respect to claim 42-43, the prior art does not disclose a coating on such a plug for such a vessel.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew A. Anderson whose telephone number is (571) 272-1459. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th, 7-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nadine Norton can be reached on (571) 272-1465. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MAA
March 17, 2004

NADINE G. NORTON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

